

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 have been cancelled. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is therefore believed to be moot. Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the screw set does not completely mesh with one another. Basis for this can be found in Figures 2 and 4 which illustrate a gap between the screw sets. New Claim 12 recites that the sectional shape is symmetric and new Claim 13 recites that the screw sets rotate in the same direction. Basis for this can be found in Figures 2 and 4.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-11 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Inoue et al. In response, Applicant maintains the position set forth the request for reconsideration filed on February 25, 2004, the arguments presented therein being incorporated by reference into the present response.

Beyond this, Applicant respectfully submits that Inoue et al neither anticipates nor renders obvious the subject matter of the amended claims. Claim 10 recites a twin screw extruder for mixing and dispersing a material to be needed. The embodiment of Figure 1 of Inoue is not an extruder but is instead a kneader. Kneaders are structurally different from extruders in a number of ways, including the fact that the screw sets of continuous kneaders are supported at both ends whereas the screw sets of extruders are not supported at the extrusion end.

Inoue et al is like the prior art described beginning at line 11 of page 2 in the present specification, it uses kneading rotors which completely mesh with each other, as is evident from the contact of the kneading rotors shown in Figures 11, 14 and 15 of the reference. In contrast, in accordance with the invention the sectional shapes of the screw segments are “selected such that left and right screw sets can be meshed with each other sufficiently even though not completely” (page 4, lines 26-27). “Therefore, even when the screw set is

arranged in pair on the left and right sides and the kneading rotor is directly connected to another segment member and brought into a sufficiently meshed state, the left and right screw sets will not interfere with each other at any connecting portions of the segment members” (page 5, lines 15-19).

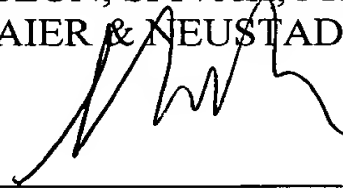
As set forth above, the embodiment of Figures 11, 14 and 15 of the Inoue et al have screw sets which completely mesh with one another, and so are incompatible with the same sectional shape feature of the present invention. While the screw sets shown in Figure 3 of Inoue et al do not completely mesh with one another, they are provided on a kneader -- not an extruder -- whose material and usage are completely different from those of the invention. Amended Claim 10 is therefore believed to clearly define over this reference.

In order to further distinguish the invention from the embodiment of Figure 3 of Inoue et al, new Claim 12 further recites that the sectional shape is symmetric and new Claim 13 recites that the screw sets rotate in the same direction. Neither is true in Figure 3 of the reference.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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